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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 18 | Humidity 41% Mostly cloudy Sensex 82,814 | Nifty 25,571 | Gold 1,56,993 | Silver 2,52,042 | Dollar 90.73 | Euro 106.93 | GBP 122.30

WATER WOE

Drinking water tests flag persistent chemical and bacteriological contamination in state

PAGE 5

DAY OF UNRAVELLING

India stumble, fall chasing SA's 188; Sri Lanka crumbles too soon before England's barely-there 146

PAGE 7

Sustainability experts say best way to tackle growing volumes of organic waste is to start neighbourhood-scale or lane composting that can help communities get visible results out of segregation of waste

PEAT DREAMS (ARE MADE OF THIS)

Decentralised composting will also reduce environmental cost of transporting organic waste across city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru grapples with mounting pressure on its waste management infrastructure, environmental groups are advocating decentralised composting as a practical way to tackle the city's growing volume of organic waste.

Though civic rules mandate that bulk waste generators — including large apartment complexes, commercial establishments and institutions — process their wet waste on-site, compliance has been uneven. Many neighbourhoods continue to depend on centralised collection and transport, adding to the burden on processing plants and landfills.

Sustainability experts say neighbourhood-scale or lane composting offers a workable alternative, especially in dense residential areas where individual homes may not have the space to maintain compost units. The fall leaves of the season can also play a vital role, they say.

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KAUSHIK JN

PAGE 6: DO THE WASTE MATH

"We generate tonnes of dry leaves every season. Instead of burning them or sending them to landfills, they can be shredded and used as carbon material in compost bins. Dry leaves help absorb moisture, prevent odour and ensure proper aeration

—Waste management expert

Keep the focus on children

Top cop's order: Child welfare police officers must not be given any task other than that pertaining to kids' safety

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Child rights activists have welcomed the letter sent by the Director General & Inspector General of Police asking that Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) at police stations not be assigned any other task than protecting child rights and handling cases involving children.

The letter to all Commissioners of Police, Inspectors General of Police, Superintendents of Police, KGF Police, and Railway Police comes after numbers revealed that 1,094 missing children are yet to be traced. As per the norms, every police station should have a child welfare police officer, assisted by one or two police constables to handle cases pertaining to children. However, not all child welfare police officers have the liberty to focus on cases involving children.

"A sub-inspector is assigned as a child welfare police officer but the sub-inspector is compelled to handle other cases too," said a police constable pleading anonymity.

The undersecretary of Internal Administration (Crime) had written a letter to DG&IGP on January 23 to submit a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Jazz fusion

A Night of Gershwin, Hollywood Classics & More will be staged at Windmills Craftworks. Vocalist-pianist Lola (Lola G) and jazz composer Tomasz Bura will blend classical finesse with jazz improvisation, featuring music inspired by George Gershwin and Hollywood favourites. **Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; When: February 27 & 28, 9.30 pm onwards**

02 Theatre tour

A Woman Or Not To Be, written and directed by Vinay Kumar, tours Karnataka this February with a bold reimagining of Shakespeare's Hamlet. The play follows Princess Hamlet, a 20-year-old college student shaped by manga and martial arts, blending physical theatre and pop imagery to question gender and patriarchy. **Where: Bengaluru International Centre, Domlur; When: Feb 27, 7 pm**

03 Creative carnival

The immersive festival features messy art and wet-on-wet painting, a community choir with Bangalore Flash Jam, theatre by Goshtarang, Gond art with Studio Tvastra, pottery by Passionfruit Pottery, and storytelling and music workshops by Sparklesound, alongside origami, flower pounding art and curated film screenings. Entry is ₹600. **Where: Eklavya School, Yelahanka; When: March 8, 9.30 am to 1 pm**

04 Poetic tribute

A special edition of Tuesdays With The Bard will celebrate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. The open mic invites participants to read her poetry and honour the 'Nightingale of India'. Entry is Rs.300. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: Feb 24, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

05 Art exhibition

Internationally recognised visual artist Dr Akhter Husain will present Vedic Inspirations, a solo exhibition of 25 mixed media works. The show explores India's spiritual and civilisational heritage through Husain's distinctive layered technique, described as "Akhterism", blending digital imaging, mineral dust, semi-precious stones and sculptural textures. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: February 28 to March 8, 10.30 am to 6 pm**

Protest planned for rights of the disabled

Hundreds assemble requesting higher monthly aid and guaranteed representation in governance structures

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Over 100 people with disabilities (PwDs) are expected to gather at Freedom Park on Monday in support of their long-pending demands. The protest is being organised by the Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers Federation (KSDCF) to urge the Chief Minister to address their demands and allocate funds for the welfare of PwDs in the State.

Bangalore Mirror published a story- People with Disabilities Rally for Pension- on October 9, 2025, detailing how hundreds of people with disabilities gathered at Freedom Park in support of their demands. Their primary demand was to increase the pension from ₹1,000 to ₹10,000 (₹5,000 by the Central Government and ₹5,000 by the State Government) and to take measures to empower people with disabilities.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Arpuda Rajan, Zonal Secretary of the Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers Federation, said that he and other members of the KSDCF had attempted to meet the Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior Citizens Empowerment, Lakshmi R Hebbalkar, but in vain. "The Minister assured us she would look into our demands when we staged a protest at Freedom Park last year but has not given us an appointment to meet her. We are also planning to stage a protest on February 25, across the country in support of our demands," said Arpuda Rajan.

KSDCF has demanded five per cent reservation in local bodies or State Assembly, alongside an urgent enhancement of the pension for people with disabilities from ₹1,000 to ₹10,000

Meanwhile, KSDCF members from Ballari, Challakere, Davangere and other districts are on their way to Bengaluru to stage a protest at Freedom Park on Monday. Shivageni, President of the KSDCF, said the State Government must reserve five per cent of seats in local bodies for people with disabilities. "There is no representation for people with disabilities in local bodies or in the State Assembly. We demand that the Government reserve five per cent of the total seats for people with disabilities," Shivageni said.

Ballari District KSDCF President N Kumarappa said people with disabilities receive between ₹1,000 and ₹1,400 per month as pension in Karnataka, compared with ₹6,000 in Andhra Pradesh. "We have been demanding that the Government increase the monthly pension, but nothing has been done to date. Hundreds of people with disabilities are expected to gather at Freedom Park on Monday. We hope the State Government will address our long-pending demands," he said.

BDA homes lie unsold

Thousands of flats and villas built by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on the city's outskirts are struggling to find takers, despite being priced lower than comparable units offered by private builders. Even years after completion, as many as 2,294 units remain unsold. The Authority has attempted to boost sales through property melas, bulk purchase discounts and even a 5 per cent rebate on select projects, but buyer response has been lukewarm. Poor infrastructure, residents say, is the biggest deterrent. Many layouts lack proper road connectivity, street lighting and basic civic amenities. Several buildings are facing seepage issues and, in the absence of functional residents' associations, maintenance has suffered.

2,294 BDA flats lie vacant amid poor infrastructure, seepage, weak demand and sluggish resale prospects

The problem is evident across projects in Kannamangala, Konadasapura, Alur Phase 1, Valagerahalli Phase 1, Gunjur and Thippasandra, where even owners who have purchased flats are unable to let them out owing to low demand. At Hunnigere, of the 100 villas launched three years ago, only 16 have been sold, leaving 84 still on the market. Buyers allege that villa prices are steep, with construction costs not clearly disclosed. Although the BDA Chairman had earlier indicated that talks were under way with private builders to help liquidate the unsold inventory and streamline maintenance through apartment associations, little progress has been made so far. As a result, both flats and villas continue to remain vacant, raising concerns over planning and execution in peripheral housing projects. **— BMB**

Metro station gets Prestige tag

In a joint venture between Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited and the Prestige Group, an estimated ₹120 crore will be spent on the naming rights of Bellandur Metro Station on the Outer Ring Road Corridor of Phase 2A. As per the agreement, the station will be named "Prestige Bellandur Metro Station" for a period of 30 years. According to BMRCL, ₹80 crore, along with an additional payable amount of ₹10 crore, has been agreed upon for the naming rights and other entitlements. If the company opts to construct an exclusive pedestrian skywalk connecting to the station premises, the total value of the partnership will amount to ₹90 crore. The joint venture forms part of a broader strategy to generate non-fare revenue streams, thereby strengthening the financial sustainability of the metro network.

The Prestige Group will undertake finishing works within the station premises to upgrade passenger amenities in line with specified interior standards, along with carrying out approved enhancement works. The developer will be responsible for maintaining the station in coordination with BMRCL and must comply with the prescribed safety and design norms.

The agreement also states that BMRCL will retain control of the public asset at all times. In this regard, limited interior advertising rights of up to 1,000 square feet, along with an allocation of 3,000 square feet of commercial space, will be provided within the station premises. **— BMB**

Robes out, ethnic wear in?

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has asked all state universities to prioritise traditional attire for convocations, reflecting Indian tradition. Speaking at the Vice-Chancellors' Conference, he advised institutions to encourage students to wear outfits that represent Indian culture. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was present, appealed for a higher allocation to the higher education sector in the State Budget, pointing out that universities have limited revenue sources and require special financial support. He also stressed the need to increase admissions, conduct classes and examinations on schedule, and declare results on time through a strict academic calendar.

The Chief Minister said Karnataka accounts for nearly 30 per cent of the country's universities and has a Gross Enrolment Ratio of 39.6 per cent, which must rise to 50 per cent by 2030. The government, he said, has launched an initiative to adopt around 100 engineering colleges in partnership with industry and is providing skill training to one lakh students annually under the Nipun Karnataka scheme. The process of filling vacant teaching posts, including assistant professor positions in government colleges, engineering and polytechnic institutions, is under way. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar called upon universities to compete globally and tap CSR funds effectively. **— BMB**

Bus fare hike buzz dismissed

Several posts circulated on social media claiming there would be an increase in fares on state-run buses operated by BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation) and KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation). Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has dismissed the social media frenzy as false and clarified that no such hike has been proposed as of now.

The clarification came after social media posts claimed that BMTC and KSRTC were considering a fare hike. To dispel the speculation, the Minister stated: "A Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee has been formed to oversee fare revisions for bus services in the state. The committee will examine the matter in accordance with the prescribed rules and submit its recommendations to the government." He further clarified that the government has not directed any revision of bus fares at present and that there will be no interference in the committee's functioning. Any revision will be based solely on the committee's recommendations. **— BMB**

Clinic fined for dumping biomedical waste

The Bengaluru South City Corporation on Sunday fined a clinic Rs 40,000 for illegally dumping hazardous medical waste, such as drip bottles and syringes, on a road in Jakkasandra, Silk Board.

The on Aswad Day Care Clinic has been penalised under the Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. Karnataka is able to process only 56,000 tonnes of biomedical waste out of the 74,000 tonnes which it generates daily.

Biomedical waste dumping can raise the infection rate in the public and is spread through stray animals, who are often lurking in garbage dumps. To tackle this issue, Karnataka has 27 facilities which treat common biomedical wastes since 2023. **–BMB**

Passenger attacks auto driver over route change

An elderly auto driver was attacked by a customer over taking an alternative route to reach the destination in the Puttenahalli Police Station limits on Sunday.

It is said that an argument broke out when the passenger objected to the route taken by the auto driver. The disagreement soon switched to a verbal altercation and from there escalated into physical violence. The passenger allegedly attacked the driver, causing injuries to the elderly man's face.

A complaint was lodged at the Puttenahalli Police Station, and investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Overpriced ride proves dear

A Rapido rider has been taken into custody for intimidating a passenger after demanding excess fare. The driver, identified as Nagesh, allegedly quoted a price, which was beyond the app-booked amount, from a female passenger who was arriving from Sarjapur. Whe she refused, the accused allegedly said he would not return her bag.

A complaint was lodged with the Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport Police Station on February 21 by the victim. The police sprang to action and took the driver into custody. Cops suggest early reporting of crimes to quick policing. **–BMB**

Ready for a summer outing at the zoo?

Bannerghatta Biological Park prepares to make heat more bearable for visitors and animals

The park has sensory enrichment plans for wild animals, including big cats

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Anticipating high footfall in the upcoming summer months, the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is taking measures to address visitors' comfort.

To ensure that visitors over the coming months are not subjected to direct sunlight, BBP is adding more permanent and temporary shelters.

"We are planning to add three to four more shelters apart from the existing ones. We are anticipating a surge in the number of visitors this summer, looking at the trend. In April 2025, we had a record number of visitors," said AV Surya Sen, Executive Director, BBP.

According to BBP officials, the surge in the number of footfall is due to a slew of measures taken, including leveraging social media platforms, to advertise and popularise the park and various facilities.

The park's earlier plan to introduce African Cheetahs is yet another reason the number of visitors is expected to swell.

"We are getting Cheetahs under our animal-exchange program. The pair is expected to reach BBP by March this year. All formalities and paper work is already completed. We are now waiting for South Africa to send the animals," added Sen.

With the temperature expected to soar over the coming months, BBP has taken up various innovative ways to keep its animals cool and safe.

From using sprinklers and creating water puddles in animals' enclosures to giving chilled food treats and vegetable ice lollies, BBP continues to use various innovative ways to ensure park inhabitants are comfortable in the summer months.

The park also has various sensory enrichment plans for wild animals, including big cats. Since last year, the park has been using low-cost papier-mache prey animals infused with different scents for big cats. Authorities say that in the wild, animals are exposed to an ever-changing array of sensory stimuli, and their senses are important means of communication and routes to gather information about their surroundings. Sensory enrichments are practiced in captive conditions to stimulate one or more of the animal's senses to allow them to exhibit species-specific behaviours.

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298 BMTC staff honoured

Since 2023, 298 BMTC employees have been honoured with appreciation certificates and cash rewards for ensuring efficient and passenger-friendly services. The corporation runs 6,973 buses, including 1,727 electric vehicles, across 51 depots, covering 13 lakh kilometres daily and serving over 45 lakh passengers. In one instance, staff recovered a bag containing a robotic vacuum cleaner left on a Vayu Vajra bus and returned it at Kempegowda International Airport. In another, gold ornaments worth ₹10 lakh were safely handed back to a passenger. Officials also refunded ₹62,316 mistakenly transferred via PhonePe within a week. BMTC issued 82 compassionate appointments, taking the total to 416 since 2023, and disbursed ₹13.5 crore in insurance payouts to 132 families. — BMB

Walkaluru drive inspects footpaths

The 10th edition of Project Walkaluru was held in Kodigehalli on Sunday, with over 120 citizens joining a 6 km footpath inspection organised by the North Zone civic agency. The initiative, conducted alongside officials, aims to improve pedestrian infrastructure. Revenue Minister and Yelahanka MLA Krishna Byre Gowda inaugurated the walk. Commissioner P Sunil Kumar, Joint Commissioners, officials and residents participated. This was the sixth walk in the BBMP North Zone, covering 40 km so far and taking the total distance under the project to 78 km. No waste piles, open urination or encroachments were reported. Minor issues included a damaged slab, a cart obstruction, four BESCOM-related hurdles and two signboards. Participants appreciated the clean and safe surroundings. The BNCC has set a target of 100 km of walkable footpaths next month. — BMB

Quadrupling plans set pace for B'luru's linking rail lines

Railways consider expanding busy corridors; rail-users rejoice as surveys for B'luru–Tumakuru and B'luru–Mysuru double lines promise capacity boost this year

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Projects target overcrowded passenger and freight routes. Activists demand strict timelines, infrastructure additions expected to improve efficiency, connectivity, and commuter experience

Even as many railway lines in Karnataka have yet to see the doubling of tracks, saturation levels on busy routes are pushing the railways to consider quadrupling the tracks. Once completed, this will be the first such initiative in Karnataka, a state that currently lags behind other parts of the country, where quadruple lines are already in place. Bengaluru's rail network is set for a year of major capacity additions, with surveys for quadrupling the Bengaluru–Tumakuru and Bengaluru–Mysuru double lines expected this year.

K Kumar, a regular rail user, said, "We just hope that, acting on the survey report, the railways will soon begin quadrupling works. These projects are critical because the Bengaluru–Mysuru and Bengaluru–Tumakuru rail corridors are approaching capacity limits due to rapidly increasing passenger and freight traffic. Quadrupling the lines will not only alleviate congestion but also provide operational flexibility to introduce additional trains.

Given that thousands of commuters travel daily between these cities and Bengaluru, the expanded infrastructure will significantly enhance travel efficiency, reduce delays, and support regional economic growth by improving connectivity." Work on the Bengaluru–Whitefield quadrupling continues, strengthening the city's suburban rail backbone, while doubling on the Bengaluru–Hassan–Mangaluru route remains slow due to difficult terrain on the Hassan–Mangaluru stretch.

Rail movement is expected to commence soon on the Tumakuru–Urukere and Pavagada–Doddahalli sections, while the Madakasira–Pavagada line is slated for December 2026 and the Madhugiri–Pavagada link for February 2028. Activists say the timelines must be treated as commitments rather than projections. "Commuters want predictable deadlines, not rolling targets," says transport activist R Nagesh. Another campaigner, Meera K, points out that the projects can ease pressure on road corridors if executed without pauses: "Even incremental additions make a difference when Bengaluru's daily travel patterns are so dense."

Footpath vendors to get identity cards and pushcarts

Street vendors across city corporations will receive identity cards and vending vehicles within two months, with the government deciding to relocate them from footpaths and enable business through pushcarts, tricycles and four-wheelers. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said,"Around 30,000 vendors have already registered, and dedicated distribution programmes will be held in each corporation to roll out welfare benefits."

On the Bengaluru Business Corridor project, he said that TDR would be issued to land losers within two to three days of spot inspection through a single-window system, and detailed guidelines on TDR transfer would be shared within two weeks. Civic bodies have also been instructed to procure small mechanised street-sweeping machines. To address waste disposal, the government is prepared to purchase up to 100 acres of land within 40 km of Bengaluru, preferably near hilly terrain, through mutual consent, with separate access roads to be developed if required.

On civic administration, around 7,000 applications have been received for B-to-A khata conversion, with delays attributed to field verification and GPS mapping to confirm road status. On property tax recovery, Shivakumar made it clear that large commercial property owners who have defaulted for seven to eight years will face auction if they fail to pay, despite the One-Time Settlement Scheme benefiting 2.65 lakh taxpayers and generating Rs 1,200 crore in revenue. Strict action has also been indicated against developers misusing building plan approvals. On corporation polls, the matter rests with the State Election Commission, while budget allocations for Bengaluru will depend on the State's financial position, he added. — BMB

Ejipura flyover July deadline set

The long-overdue Ejipura flyover project in Bengaluru has finally been given a definitive completion target, as Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Friday directed contractors to finish the structure by the end of July. It was reported on Sunday that BSMILE (Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited) has commenced construction work on the flyover. Pile cage lowering and S4 segment lifting are currently under way, in line with the Commissioner's instructions to prepare for round-the-clock operations to meet the deadline.

Construction of the Ejipura flyover began in 2017 and has since become a subject of satire and humour among residents, who regularly post progress videos on social media. The flyover, which aims to ease chronic traffic congestion along the Koramangala–Ejipura route, is expected to improve connectivity to the Inner Ring Road and Embassy Tech Village (ETV) corridors. — BMB

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಮಸ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ರಫೀಕ್ ಪಾಷ ಬಿನ್ ಫಕೃದ್ದೀನ್‌ರವರು** ಈ ಕೆಳಗಡೆ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು **ಶ್ರೀ ನಾಗರಾಜು. ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ದಾಸಪ್ಪ,** ವಾಸ: ಮನೆ ನಂ:706, ಧರ್ಮರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ನಗರ, ಜಿ. ಸಿ. ಸರ್ಕಲ್, 5ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇವರಿಂದ ಶುದ್ಧಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಕ್ರಯದ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ವಾರಸುದಾರಿಕೆ, ಭಾಗಾಂಶ, ಹಕ್ಕು ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂತಾದ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ತಂಟೆ, ತಕರಾರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ-ತಮ್ಮ ವಾರಸುದಾರಿಕೆ, ಭಾಗಾಂಶ, ಹಕ್ಕು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ತಕರಾರುಗಳು ಬರದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಡಲಾಗಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಕರಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ, 4ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್, 2ನೇ ಡಿವಿಜನ್. ರೋಜಿಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 7, 9, 10, 11 ಮತ್ತು 117 ರ ಜಮೀನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳವರಿಂದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂಯುಎನ್(1)ಸಿ. ಆರ್ 32/1980-81 ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-08-1980 ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ವಾಸದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾನ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸೈಟ್‌ಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಹಾಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ರೋಜಿಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸೈಟ್ ನಂಬರ್: 168, ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂಬರ್: 3442/5728/168/140, ನಿರ್ಧರಣಾ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 3442/5728/168/140, ಹಾಲಿ ಇ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ. ನಂಬರ್: 2-4-542-163, ಸೈಟ್ ನಂಬರ್: 168ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಪೂರ್ವ-ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ 25 ಅಡಿ, ಉತ್ತರ-ದಕ್ಷಿಣ 30 ಅಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 750 ಚದರ ಅಡಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ: **ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ :** ರಸ್ತೆ, **ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ:** ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ. ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂಬರ್: 2-4-541-154ಬಿ, **ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ:** ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ. ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂಬರ್: 2-4-542-165, **ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ:** ಪಿ.ಐ.ಡಿ. ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ನಂಬರ್: 2-4-542-161.

ಸಹಿ/- **ಜಿ.ಟಿ. ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್,** ವಕೀಲರು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಚೇರಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ - 561 203

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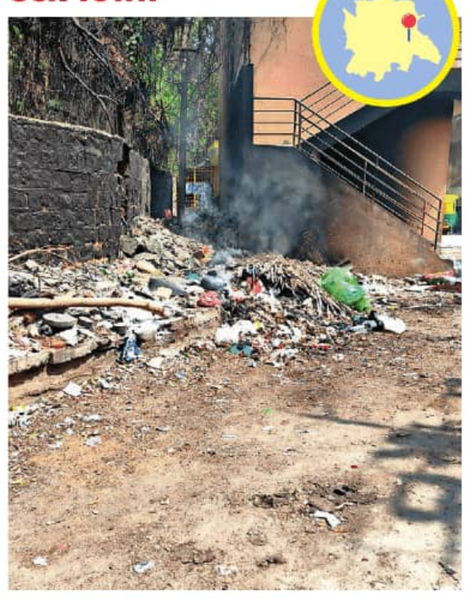
Footpath encroachment
BTM Layout

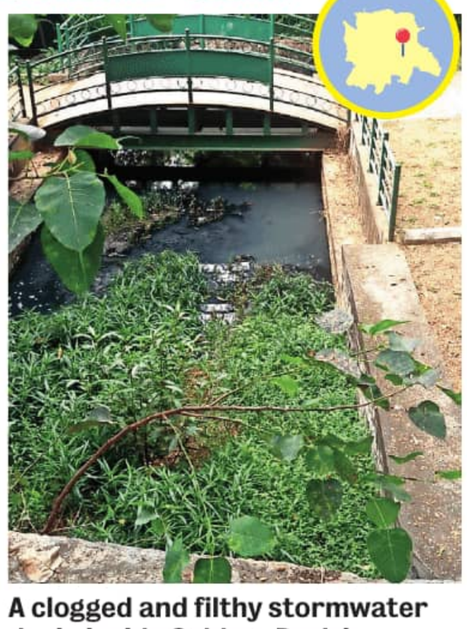
Footpath encroachment on 7th Main Road, BTM 2nd Stage, opposite a restaurant, forcing pedestrians onto the carriageway.

Rubbish burning
Cox Town



Daily burning of rubbish at Krishnappa Lane, Park Road, Cox Town, Jeevanahalli, with sewage mixing with waste and obstructing vehicular movement.

Drain blockage
Ambedkar Veedhi



A clogged and filthy stormwater drain inside Cubbon Park is causing stagnant water, a foul smell, and severe inconvenience to visitors.

Undertrial never brought to court: 'Accused are also human beings'

The High Court has pulled up the State's Prisons Department after discovering that an undertrial prisoner was not produced before the jurisdictional court for more than four years, despite proceedings continuing in the case.

The matter came before Justice M Nagaprasanna in petitions filed by an accused, Imran alias Kulla, who has been in custody in connection with two criminal cases registered by the HAL police. Although a trial court had granted him bail earlier, he remained in prison as he was unable to furnish sureties. During this period, he was neither physically produced before the trial court nor presented through virtual mode.

Expressing displeasure at the lapse, the judge observed, "Put your prison in order. Should this court pass an order to produce an undertrial before the court concerned? Accused are also human beings unless convicted."

The court was concerned after it was informed that a non-bailable warrant issued by the magistrate had been returned with an endorsement stating that the accused could not be traced. This was despite the fact that he had been lodged in prison. Taking note of the communication breakdown between police and prison authorities, the court directed senior officials to appear and explain the circumstances. **BMB**

HIGH COURT

BESCOM rapped for 'deep-rooted corruption'

The High Court has made sharp observations about alleged corruption within the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) while denying a bail plea filed by a senior official caught in a bribery case.

The case concerns KV Rajesh, an Executive Engineer attached to BESCOM's E-11 Subdivision in Indiranagar. He was arrested by the Lokayukta police following a complaint by a licenced electrical contractor who alleged that the officer demanded a bribe to process an electricity connection.

According to the prosecution, the contractor had been authorised by a property owner in Medahalli to secure renewal of a 24 kV electricity connection. After submitting the application, he was allegedly directed to approach Rajesh. It was claimed that Rajesh demanded Rs 7 lakh for clearing the file, including an amount purportedly meant for a superior officer.

The Lokayukta police laid a trap and arrested Rajesh on February 9. While considering his bail application, the court took note of the repeated instances in which BESCOM officials have been arrested in corruption cases. In a strongly worded order, the judge observed that "corruption has been deep rooted in the electricity supply company."

The court indicated that the pattern of cases emerging from the organisation reflects a systemic problem rather than isolated misconduct. Taking into account the seriousness of the allegations, the court declined bail. **BMB**

In troubled waters

Data indicates while large-scale testing is underway, contamination of drinking water remains concern in many parts of state, including B'luru

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Drinking water quality monitoring across Karnataka has flagged significant non-compliance over the past three financial years, with a substantial number of samples failing to meet prescribed standards. The latest data, with a focus on Bengaluru, indicates that while large-scale testing is underway, contamination remains a concern in certain pockets.

According to the data presented in Lok Sabha on Thursday, the State tested 2,51,763 water samples for chemical parameters and 46,309 for bacteriological parameters in 2023-24. Of these, 24,917 samples were found to have chemical contamination, while 4,670 samples showed bacteriological contamination. In 2024-25, a total of 2,72,166 samples were examined for chemical parameters and 1,18,079 for bacteriological parameters. Non-compliance was recorded in 17,261 samples for chemical contamination and 2,574 for bacteriological contamination.

In 2025-26, as on date, 1,96,194 samples have been tested for chemical parameters and 50,134 for bacteriological parameters.

Of these, 10,911 samples were chemically contaminated and 452 samples showed bacteriological contamination.

Bengaluru in radar

Within the BBMP limits, specific instances of contamination have been recorded in the current year. Ten samples were found to have excess total hardness, four samples showed elevated fluoride levels and one sample had nitrate contamination. While the numbers within Bengaluru are relatively small compared to the statewide figures, experts note that chemical contamination in urban centres requires close monitoring due to dense population and dependence on both Cauvery water and groundwater sources. A senior official associated with water quality monitoring said, "The rise in testing over the years reflects improved surveillance. The proportion of non-compliant samples has reduced compared to earlier years, especially in bacteriological parameters."

"Even isolated chemical contamination, particularly fluoride and nitrate, can have long-term health implications if exposure continues. Urban local bodies must ensure swift corrective measures

A closer look at the data suggests that in 2023-24, nearly 10 percent of chemically tested samples were non-compliant. This proportion declined in 2024-25 and continues to show a downward trend in 2025-26 so far. Bacteriological contamination has also reduced significantly this year.

Public health specialists, however, caution against complacency. "Even isolated chemical contamination, particularly fluoride and nitrate, can have long-term health implications if exposure continues. Urban local bodies must ensure swift corrective measures," said a Bengaluru-based public health expert. Officials maintain that corrective actions such as chlorination, pipeline maintenance and source-level interventions are being carried out regularly.

The 2025–26 data on drinking water contamination across Karnataka districts reveals significant non-compliance with prescribed quality standards, particularly in parameters such as total hardness, fluoride, and nitrate. Total hardness emerged as the most widespread issue, with districts like Tumakuru (269 cases), Vijayapura (277), Koppal (212), and Belagavi (184) reporting high numbers. Nitrate contamination was also alarming in Mandya (336), Koppal, Chitradurga, and Raichur.

"The data signals that while monitoring mechanisms are active and coverage has expanded, consistent vigilance remains essential. For Bengaluru, where water demand continues to grow, maintaining quality standards will be as critical as ensuring supply," Shivaram D, a water expert said.

"While BWSSB chairman has proactively adopted a multi-pronged strategy towards water security, it is all the more necessary to conserve every drop of Cauvery water that flows from the taps in excess of needed flow rate. All hand wash taps must be fitted with Aerators by March 2026 to avoid water scarcity as well as to minimise health hazards," said Madhavan Rao Policy Advisor (Pro Bono) for BWSSB's #MissionSchools10MLD project.

Madhuri Subbarao, co-founder, Friends of Lakes (FOL) said, government agencies must conduct such testing regularly and transparently, but the persistently poor results raise serious concerns. "It is deeply distressing that not a single lake in Bengaluru qualifies as potable water despite multiple government departments, expert committee reports, and sustained citizen engagement.

Most lakes fall under D and E categories of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board classification, meaning the water is not even fit for animal consumption. Raw sewage discharge and unchecked chemical contamination are directly entering the soil and groundwater, making pollution inevitable," she said.

ASI denies environmental degradation in Hampi

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in a report filed to the National Green Tribunal, has denied allegations of environmental degradation in Hampi and its adjoining heritage sites.

Through a complaint filed with the tribunal a few months ago, it was alleged that authorities have failed in discharging their statutory duties, resulting in severe environmental degradation of the Hampi World Heritage Site and its adjoining heritage and religious sites.

However, as per ASI, it is carrying out conservation, preservation, and regular maintenance of the Hampi World Heritage site. This includes regular maintenance, structural conservation, minor repairs, and cleanliness, site management, providing tourist amenities, and creating public awareness regarding the rich cultural Heritage.

"Archaeological Survey of India, Hampi Circle, is continuously doing a cleanliness drive and awareness program for the visitors and has been requested to maintain the plastic-free zone at the Group of Monuments at Hampi." ASI has clarified.

The agency has also underlined that to ensure smooth functioning, proper administration, and to address conservation and preservation of all protected monuments under the jurisdiction of Hampi Circle, ASI at the circle level, has been divided into 7 sub-circles with plenty of staff strength who are managing 23 centrally protected monuments under its jurisdiction.

"ASI at Hampi Circle has been carrying out day-to-day maintenance by cleaning weeds, grass, collecting garbage and plastic from the monument. All the collected garbage, grass, and plastic are disposed of collectively by the staff of ASI, Hampi Gram Panchayat, at the solid waste management unit maintained by the town municipal council in Kamalapura.

Notably, the group of monuments at Hampi is given the status of World Heritage Site, which includes 57 monuments. The Kamalapura sub-circle has 34 protected monuments within the Hampi World Heritage site. As many as 107 staff members are deployed for maintenance and cleanliness of the surroundings of the monuments. The total area of the monuments is approximately 10 sq km.

Garima Prasher

BM SIMPLY PUT

Mounting trash crisis drives emergency infrastructure investment decision

Inside Bengaluru's Waste Funding Formula

Bengaluru's garbage problem continues to snowball, with nearly 6,500 tonnes of waste generated every day and over 3,500 tonnes still being dumped in landfills. Protests by local MLAs and villagers near landfill and processing units recently disrupted waste disposal, pushing the government to release Rs 350 crore for development works in six Assembly constituencies. Here is a closer look at what triggered the move and what it means.

Why did the government release Rs 350 crore now?

The funds were cleared after legislators from constituencies hosting landfill and waste processing units objected to continued dumping without parallel development. In some locations, waste disposal was stalled for two days. Following intervention and assurances from officials of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, the government sanctioned grants to pacify local resistance and ensure operations resume smoothly.

Which constituencies have received the funds?

Yeshwanthpur, Byatarayanapura, Mahadevapura, Anekal, Bengaluru South and Doddaballapura have together been allotted Rs 350 crore. Allocations range from Rs 10 crore to Rs 90 crore, with Yeshwanthpur, which has multiple waste units, receiving one of the highest shares.

What will the money be used for?

The allocation is meant for roads, drainage, drinking water supply, sanitation, community facilities and other basic infrastructure in villages located near landfill and processing sites. Officials say it is aimed at compensating areas that bear the burden of the city's waste.

How serious is Bengaluru's waste crisis?

The city produces around 6,500 tonnes of solid waste daily. While several composting and processing plants have been set up, they are not operating at full capacity. As a result, more than half the waste continues to be sent to landfills, leading to foul smell, pollution and public health concerns in surrounding villages.

Are existing processing plants underperforming?

Yes. Seven major wet waste processing units together have the capacity to handle over 1,600 metric tonnes daily, but actual processing often falls short. Despite crores spent on building and maintaining these units, landfill dependency remains high.

Why are local residents protesting?

Villagers complain of unbearable odour, groundwater contamination and health issues due to constant dumping. They argue that though crores are claimed to have been spent on area development over the years, visible improvement on the ground is limited.

Is political pressure influencing waste management decisions?

There are allegations that unless development grants are assured, local representatives stall garbage disposal. This has led to a pattern where funds are released in the name of village development to avoid disruption in waste operations.

What long term plans are in place?

The government has identified over 100 acres each in north and south Bengaluru for integrated waste management projects, and tenders have been floated for door to door collection contracts running into thousands of crores over several years. However, many projects are yet to be fully implemented.

Will this Rs 350 crore solve the garbage problem?

Unlikely. While infrastructure funding may ease local resentment, experts say the core issue lies in improving segregation at source, expanding processing capacity and reducing landfill dependence. Without systemic reform, Bengaluru's garbage burden is set to persist despite repeated financial allocations.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Gate drama

There has been a hue and cry over reports that electronic media were barred from moving freely inside Vidhana Soudha, but Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has clarified that there is no blanket ban, only "reasonable restrictions". Journalists staged a protest near the Gandhi statue within the Vidhana Soudha premises after an order directed media personnel to collect statements only at the Kengal Gate portico, citing security concerns for the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Home Minister and MLAs if reporters moved through the corridors. Opposition Leader R Ashoka termed the move condemnable and demanded its immediate withdrawal. After meeting the Chief Minister and submitting a memorandum, media representatives were told that the restrictions would be reviewed, with the government maintaining that entry to Vidhana Soudha has not been stopped, only regulated.

Food protest

Hostel students from the Government Post-Matric Girls' Hostel in Basavakalyan (Bidar) turned up at MLA Sharanu Salgar's residence last week carrying a lunch box filled with allegedly substandard 'churumuri vogga-rane' served to them, asking him, "Sir, would you eat this?" The girls, who complained of being repeatedly served poor-quality food, broke down as they showed its contents. Taking serious note, the MLA directed officials to suspend the hostel warden and ordered a detailed inquiry, lashing out at the administration for negligence despite crores being spent on welfare schemes for poor students.

Budgetary support for marriage

At a recent pre-Budget meeting at Vidhana Soudha, farmer leaders placed an unusual proposal before Chief Minister Siddaramaiah: to provide a minimum fixed deposit of Rs 10 lakh for women who marry young farmers, as a step towards strengthening agrarian families. The demand, part of a broader memorandum on farm distress, stood out for highlighting a social concern underlying the economic crisis. Leaders pointed out that in several parts of rural Karnataka, many young farmers remain unmarried due to a shortage of brides and a visible reluctance among families to marry their daughters into farming households.

'Big Man' politics

Days after his sharp remark likening the Chief Minister's son, Yathindra, to the party High Command, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday chose to remain guarded when asked about Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa's controversial comments comparing street dogs to party workers. Steering clear of the row, Shivakumar termed Mahadevappa a senior leader and said the matter rests with the party. "Mahadevappa is a big man and he is also part of our High Command. I do not want to react to his statements. The party will take a call," he said.

Turbulence talk

Is the current alliance between the BJP and the JD(S) smooth, or is it facing a bumpy ride? When journalists quizzed JD(S) State youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy, he said, "We have all boarded the same aircraft with a fixed destination. When it shakes, you do not jump off mid-air. You fasten your seat belt and continue," adding with a smile that alliance hiccups are routine and will be handled by party seniors. He claimed that nearly 30 per cent of ministers in the Congress government have Janata Dal roots. "We are not just an Old Mysuru party; we are a leader-making factory," he quipped.

Thinking drift

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed disappointment that a few universities were fostering superstition by promoting speculative ideas about cow dung and urine instead of encouraging rational thinking among students. Speaking at a conference of Vice-Chancellors recently, he said students who pursue research based on imaginary claims would end up as unproductive graduates, and that real progress in higher education is possible only through learning rooted in the Constitution. Referring to a recent AI summit controversy, he said Galgotias University in Uttar Pradesh had brought disrepute to the country internationally by claiming that a China-made AI robotic dog had been developed by them.

–Sridhar Vivan

South Africa thrash India by 76 runs

IT WAS NOT OUR DAY

David Miller rolled back the years with a stroke-filled fifty before South Africa executed clinically with the ball to choke India and secure a handsome 76-run win in their Group 1 Super Eights match of the T20 World Cup in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Opting to bat, South Africa rode on Miller (63 off 35 balls) and young Dewald Brevis' (45 off 29 balls) recovery act -- 97-run fourth-wicket stand from just 51 balls -- to post 187 for 7.

In reply, India never got going as the Aiden Markram-led side outsmarted them to bowl the co-hosts out for 111 in 18.5 overs with Marco Jansen taking 4/22.

Keshav Maharaj grabbed 3/24, while Corbin Bosch (2/12) also gave crucial breakthroughs.

Credit should also go to Lungi Ngidi who didn't take any wicket but bowled miserly and gave away just 15 runs from his full quota of four overs to stymie India's fightback.

Shivam Dube was India's top-scorer with a 37-ball 42.

In a bold move, part-time off-sipnner Aiden Markram (1/5; 1 over) opened with the new ball and gave the crucial breakthrough, removing in-form Ishan Kishan for a four-ball duck in the opening over.

India's star opener Abhishek Sharma ended his hat-trick of ducks to open his account in the T20 World Cup but fell for 15 as Marco Jansen struck twice in the powerplay to leave India 26/3.

Miller set the stage with exhilarating strokes but Jasprit Bumrah's superb bowling restricted South Africa to 187/7.

Miller struck 63 off 35 balls and got fine support from young Dewald Brevis (45 off 29 balls) as the duo led a recovery act in a 97-run fourth-wicket stand that came off just 51 balls.

Bumrah (3/15 in 4 overs) and Arshdeep Singh (2/28 in 4 overs) had reduced the Proteas to 20/3 inside the first four overs after they opted to bat.

South Africa
187/7
(20)

India
111
(18.5)

1. South Africa's David Miller, front, and Dewald Brevis run between the wickets;
2. Suryakumar Yadav reacts after his dismissal
3. Shivam Dube plays a shot

Today's match

Zimbabwe V/S West Indies

07.00 pm

SALT ON SRI LANKA'S WOUNDS

Sri Lanka crumbles at 95 though England had managed just 146 anchored on Phil Salt, Will Jacks innings

Phil Salt and Will Jacks provided England a perfect start in the Super Eights as co-host Sri Lanka crashed to a 51-run defeat on Sunday.

Salt anchored England to 146-9 with a resolute 62 off 40 balls and Jacks provided impetus to the total by smashing four boundaries in his 21-run knock in the death overs.

Sri Lanka crumbled to 95 all out as offspinner Jacks picked up three wickets inside the power play and earned England its 12th consecutive win in a T20 against the hosts.

Jofra Archer (2-20) struck with a vital blow in his second over when Pathum Nissanka, who scored a century against Australia at the same venue during a group game, flicked a 150 kph delivery straight to deep mid-wicket.

With spinners getting a grip on a slow wicket, Sri Lanka batters struggled against Jacks' fuller deliveries and slipped to 34-5 inside the first six overs. Kusal Mendis offered a tame return catch to Jacks and Pavan Rathanayake got dismissed off the first delivery when Jacks got a leading edge.

Captain Dasun Shanaka top-scored with 30 but fell to a brilliant relay catch when Jacks caught the ball above his head while running back and tossed the ball back to Tom Banton to complete the catch before Jacks went over the ropes.

The two other England spinners, Liam Dawson (2-27) and Adil Rashid (2-13), also prospered in ideal bowling conditions. Fast bowler Jamie Overton (1-13) also managed to get amongst the wickets.

Earlier, England's top-order crashed against spinner Dunith Wellalage (3-26) as Jos Buttler's (7) disappointing tournament continued with his third successive single-digit score. Buttler fell to a poor reverse flick against Wellalage after his bat got tangled between his legs and he was struck on the pads plumb in front of the wickets.

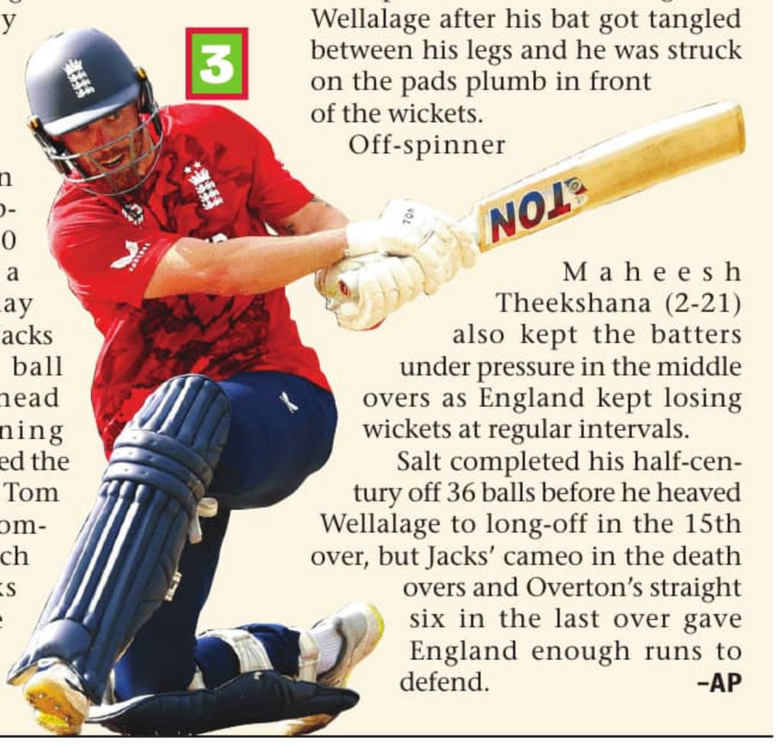
Off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana (2-21) also kept the batters under pressure in the middle overs as England kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Salt completed his half-century off 36 balls before he heaved Wellalage to long-off in the 15th over, but Jacks' cameo in the death overs and Overton's straight six in the last over gave England enough runs to defend. -AP

England
146/9
(20)

Sri Lanka
95
(16.4)

1. Will Jacks celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Pavan Rathnayake
2. Will Jacks of England bats during the match against Sri Lanka
3. Phil Salt in action



Officers must be given continuous, regular training: Activist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

report on the action taken to trace missing children in the state. The letter also stated that missing children cases are increasing year by year.

"The data on missing children states that 9,597 children (2,748 boys and 6,981 girls) are missing in three years. As per the media reports, the police have failed to trace 1,094 missing children till date. You have to consider the issues raised by Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights on a priority basis," the letter read.

It is in context of this that the DG&IGP issued the latest circular. "Arrangements should be made to organise open house programmes at all colleges every Thursday with more focus on high schools and Pre-University Colleges. You have to take measures to organise Police to Every School and College on the lines of people-friendly initiative - Police to Every Home.

A meeting should be held every month to discuss missing children and take measures to find such children. Meetings should be held once in 15 days with parents of missing children and narrate the progress of the investigation of such cases. One children police station has to be established, on the lines of Women Police Station, in every district. You have to take measures to organise awareness programmes on the adverse impact of social media on children," the circular read.

Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, has described the circular as a commendable and much-needed step towards safeguarding children's rights and safety.

"It is essential to establish a system of continuous, regular training for the Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs) and Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) present in every police station. This training should focus specifically on children's rights, child protection laws (such as the Juvenile Justice Act), sensitive handling of child-related cases, and best practices in dealing with children as victims or in conflict with the law.

Police stations and officers should proactively organise more community-oriented programs such as awareness campaigns, school outreach, parent workshops, and child safety initiatives.

These efforts, viewed from the perspective of children's welfare, would greatly contribute to building trust, preventing exploitation and abuse, and creating a safer environment for all children in society," Rao said.

Safari operations have cracked open raging debate

While farmers remain opposed to tourism activity, environmentalists say operations in forest areas can continue but must be regulated

Following the government's directive to resume safari operations in Bandipur National Park and Nagarahole National Park, a sharp conflict has emerged between opposing groups.

While leaders of farmer organisations have demanded that the safari ban continue, those whose livelihoods depend on safari tourism have voiced strong support to its restarting. Amid the growing tensions, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre held a meeting and gave conditional approval for the resumption of safari services. However, the dispute appears far from over.

Farmer organisations argue that safari disturbances are forcing animals out of the forest. They contend that safaris primarily benefit the wealthy and corporate interests and should therefore remain suspended. Additionally, due to the increased movement of wildlife toward human settlements, the government had earlier temporarily halted safari operations in Bandipur and Nagarahole to deploy staff for monitoring and capture operations.

The suspension, however, severely affected those dependent on tourism for employment and business. As a result, demands to resume safaris grew louder. Meanwhile, the Forest Department also suffered the loss of crores of rupees in tourism revenue. The government has now granted permission to restart safaris, reigniting protests both for and against the move. The safari centre at Bandipur in Gundlupet taluk has become a focal point of the controversy.

Safari activities resumed in Bandipur Tiger Reserves on Sunday

Experts call for regulation

Wildlife experts have weighed in on the debate, stating that a complete ban on safaris is not a solution. They also do not fully agree with claims that safaris alone are responsible for animals venturing out of forests. However, they stress that safari operations must be conducted scientifically.

"There should be limits on the number of vehicles allowed, and resorts or other tourism activities operating in violation of regulations must be curbed. If conducted within scientific parameters and proper limits, safari activities should not pose a problem," said Malleshappa, former member of the State Wildlife Board, who has long been associated with forest conservation efforts.

Opposing the move, Honnur Prakash of a farmers' association said safaris are created for fun. "Wild animals live freely in forests. Is it right for us to intrude and disturb them? Safari is not necessary. Instead, promote agro-tourism. Adopt alternative methods to create awareness about forests," he said. **BMB**

Vote for regulated ecotourism

Wildlife and conservation experts have reiterated that regulated ecotourism, when conducted within National Tiger Conservation Authority guidelines and designated routes, is not the driver of human-wildlife conflict incidents.

"I am delighted that safaris have resumed in Karnataka, with a greater focus on local employment and support. However, the blame for this continues to be laid at ecotourism's door, and they have suffered the consequences of both closure and now further restrictions when it is not ecotourism's fault in the first place," said Julian Matthews, Founder of TOFT and wildlife conservationist. "

Dr. Anish Andheria, conservationist – specialising in human-carnivore interactions, said vehicle-bound jungle safaris have operated across most Indian tiger reserves for more than three decades.

Landfill spaces shrinking, time to act is now

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Not every household has the room or the time to manage composting on its own but when 15 or 20 houses on a street share a lane composter, the responsibility becomes lighter and far more manageable. It turns waste segregation from a symbolic act into something that produces visible results," said a city-based waste management advocate.

Under the lane composting model, residents segregate waste at source, keeping biodegradable material separate from dry recyclables. The organic fraction — vegetable peels, fruit scraps and food leftovers — is collected at a designated point within the street and fed into a shared composting unit.

Experts emphasise that dry leaves from avenue trees play a crucial role in the process. "In a city like Bengaluru, we generate tonnes of dry leaves every season," the advocate explained. "Instead of burning them or sending them to landfills, they can be shredded and used as carbon material in compost bins. Dry leaves help absorb moisture, prevent odour and ensure proper aeration. They are an asset, not a nuisance," she added.

How it works

Typically, a trained worker or volunteer oversees the composting unit, layering wet waste with dry leaves and occasionally turning the mix to allow airflow. Within weeks, the decomposed material turns into nutrient-rich compost that can be used in terrace gardens, potted plants or community parks.

"Lane composters are particularly effective because they require minimal infrastructure," another environmental consultant said. "Two or three well-maintained bins on a street can handle the wet waste of dozens of homes. The compost generated can be reused within the same neighbourhood, closing the loop," he explained.

Beyond easing pressure on municipal systems, decentralised composting significantly reduces the environmental cost of transporting organic waste across the city. Waste trucks carrying biodegradable waste to processing units on the outskirts consume fuel and add to emissions. With landfill space shrinking and public resistance to dumping yards growing, local treatment is increasingly seen as the way forward.

"People often say waste management is the government's job but waste is generated in our kitchens. If communities come together, use the dry leaves already falling on their streets, and manage compost locally, the burden on the larger system reduces dramatically," he added.

A street sweeper pointed to the benefits of reusing fallen leaves locally. "Earlier, we used to collect dry leaves and load them into trucks along with other waste," she said. "Sometimes they were burned, which created smoke. Now, if residents keep the leaves aside for composting, we don't have to transport them far. It keeps the area cleaner and reduces extra trips."

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Chidanand Goudanavar S/O, Ramappa R/o N0-265(16),8th D Main,srinidhi Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to Chidanand Ramappa Goudanavar.

I, Venkatappa R/o Sontenahalli, Kolliganahalli post, Ramanagar Tq and Dist 562112 have changed my name to Venkataiah. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Romald Jitendra Dsouza Resident. B-204, Mims Residency, 2nd Floor, Thanisandra Main Road, Sampigehalli, Agrahara, Yelahanka, BLR-64. Changed My Name from Romald Jitendra James Dsouza To Romald Jitendra Dsouza to all further purposes. (Reference Date of Birth 19/06/1983).

LOST & FOUND

I, Subramanya T R s/o T R Ranganath R/o No.148, 2nd floor, 2nd main, NGEF layout, Mallathalli, Bengaluru 560056 while traveling have lost my original sale Deed No.JAL-1-02002-2010-11, Registration Date : 28.08.2010, Registration Deed Lost Date : 05.01.2026. Police complaint given vide Lost Report No.2059717/2026 Dt.12/02/2026. If found pls contact 9886710673

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SINGAPORE MALAYSIA/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS MAR: 5, 24 APR: 6, 20 MAY: 4, 18
BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS MAR: 12 APR: 1, 12, 26
BHUTAN 8 DAYS MAR: 24 APR: 21 MAY: 19
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS MAR: 21 APR: 11, 25 MAY: 9, 23
VIETNAM 8 DAYS APR: 12 / BALI 7 DAYS MAR: 23 APR: 6
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS MAR: 10 APR: 14 MAY: 5
ANDAMAN 6 DAYS MAR: 4 APR: 14
KAILASH MANSAROVAR 14 DAYS MAY: 21 JUNE: 25

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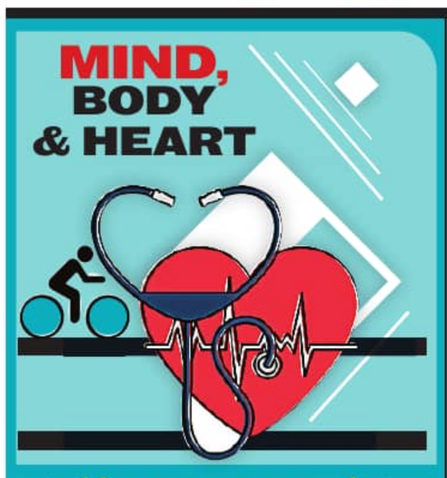


All you need to know about...

Coping with thoughts

Gratitude
Practise gratitude, a powerful way to shift your focus toward what's going right. By intentionally noticing and appreciating even the small things, you train your mind to see positivity and build emotional resilience. Start by listing three things you're grateful for each day.

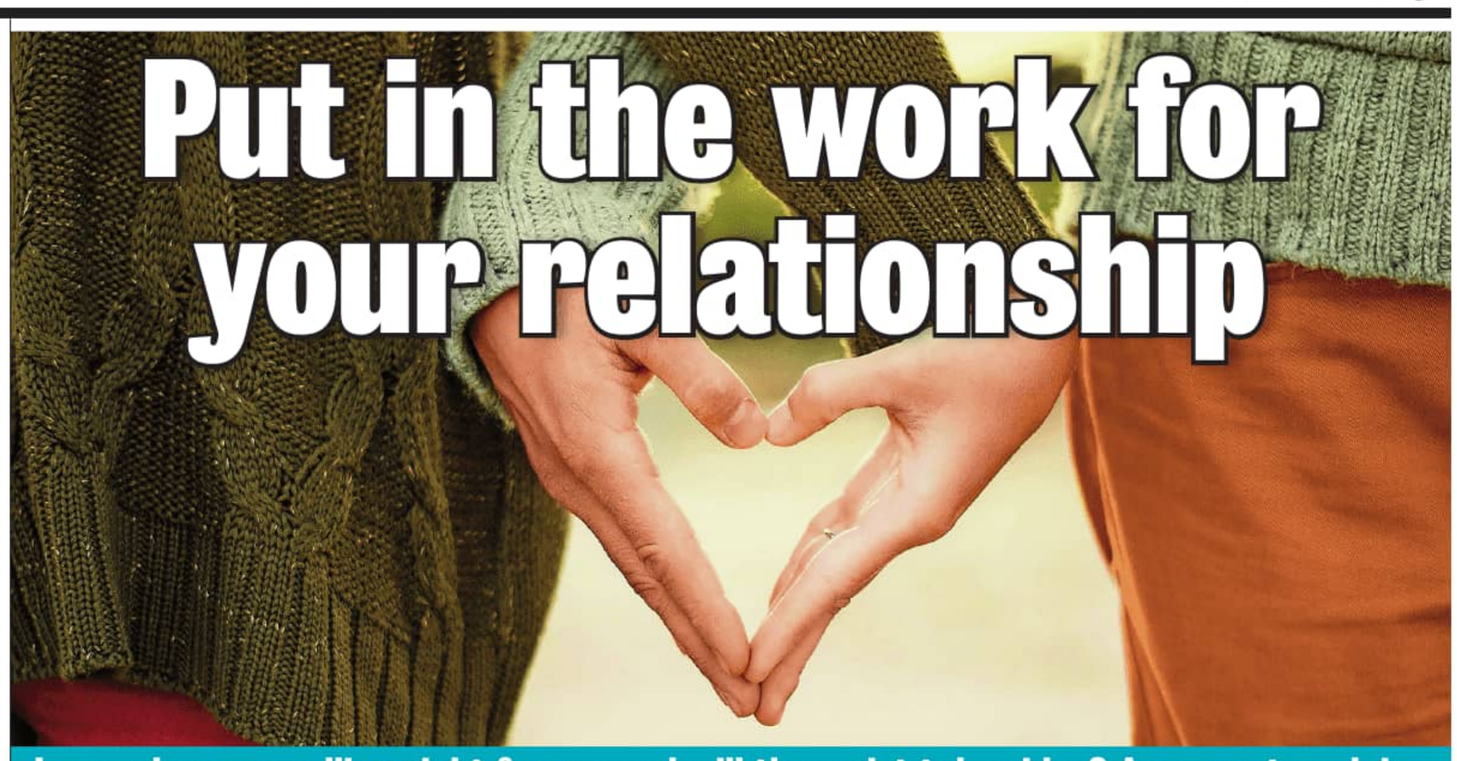
Talk it out
Holding your feelings can feel safe at first, but over time it will weigh on your mind and heart. Share your thoughts and emotions with someone you trust a friend, family member, or therapist; this can be incredibly healing. Talking isn't about burdening others; it's about giving yourself permission to be heard and understood. When you share what's on your mind and your feelings, this will lead to clearing out your mind.

Reduce info overload
Your brain needs space to process your thoughts and emotions, and constant input can make it harder to find that calm. One practical approach is to set boundaries with your screen time. This could mean checking news only once or twice a day, muting notifications during work or relaxation periods, or taking social media breaks. You can even create a 'digital detox' routine.

Get creative
Thoughts and emotions can feel too intense to explain, and that's where creativity can become a powerful release. Engage in creative activities, whether it's dancing, writing, playing music, or another form of art. This will allow you to channel emotions in ways that go beyond words.

Accept what you can't control
One of the most powerful ways to cope with your thoughts and emotions is learning to accept what you cannot change. Accepting doesn't mean giving up or ignoring problems. It's about recognizing the difference between what you can influence and what you can't.

–Femina



Put in the work for your relationship

Is couples counselling right for me and will therapist take sides? An expert explains

Should we do couples counselling? Are we happy? Are we both pulling in the same direction? How can we get our spark back?

These kinds of questions are normal in a society that places such importance on coupledom, despite there being no handbook or one-size-fits all approach.

Many people seek out couples counselling when going through a rough patch, or wondering how to improve their relationship. And no doubt the hit show Couples Therapy has boosted public interest in this type of counselling.

So, how do you decide if it's right for you and what should you expect?

Should we get couples counselling?

Relationship satisfaction changes over time. Research shows even knowing this can help couples navigate the usual ups and downs of life together.

Some research also shows couples therapy can help lower relationship distress (which might include things such as frequent arguments or feeling dissatisfied in your relationship).

It may be suitable for some couples who want to work through infidelity or stressors such as caregiving responsibilities.

Others may seek out preventative couples counselling, which is focused on finding ways to improve communications before your relationship reaches crisis point.

Does it work? Well, some research has found certain types of counselling did help cut the divorce rate among newlyweds â " but so too did getting couples to simply watch romance movies together and discuss the themes with their partner.

Overall, much depends on your motivation for seeking counselling and the mindset you're bringing to it. Ask yourself: what do I want to work on, and what do I hope to achieve?

If your goal is to get someone to "take your side", counselling may not help. A good couples counsellor should remain neutral, and they're not there to take sides.

Many who seek couples counselling do so because they're arguing and disagreeing a lot with their partner. If that's you, it might help to let go of notions about who is "right" and move beyond anger.

Instead, the focus in counselling may be on finding new conflict resolution skills.

Counselling may help with:

1. improving communication skills
2. making better connections with each other
3. exploring the couples' hopes for the future
4. identifying what's blocking them from achieving these goals.

Couples counselling isn't always about staying together. Some use it to explore how to separate in a way that centres the needs of children.

Others may have specific issues with intimacy or sex. In that case, a sexual health counsellor or sex therapist may be more suitable than a standard couples counsellor. You can find one via professional organisations.

With a sex therapist, you and your partner might talk about things such as: mismatched libidos, bodily changes, for example, to do with ageing expectations around sex, communication around sex, making adjustments to the way you interact to resolve these issues.

Importantly, though, not everyone needs therapy, or would benefit from it.

> **Some research shows couples therapy can help lower relationship distress, which may include things such as frequent arguments or feeling dissatisfied**

It's no silver bullet.

Not for everyone

The problems or harms in some relationships will not be resolved through talking therapy. The most obvious is where violence and/or coercive control is used: safety planning, not couples counselling, is more appropriate.

And it's important to remember the problems that lead people to conflict or counselling sometimes have structural causes that can't be "fixed" by a few therapy sessions.

For instance, perhaps your relationship is suffering because you're experiencing stress at work, financial pressures, or you're supporting a partner with depression.

These are complex structural issues.

It's also unclear how long the benefits of couples counselling last. One study noted "many distressed couples benefit during relationship education courses but that these benefits decline when the program ends."

How do people choose a counsellor?

There's a wide range of therapeutic techniques.

One famous approach is called the Gottman method, where couples focus on things such as creating "love maps" recording what you know about your partner, nurturing fondness, turning toward each other instead of away and solving problems.

Famously, the Gottman approach also identifies the "four horsemen" of a relationship apocalypse: criticism, contempt, defensiveness and stonewalling.

Other couples counsellors will take more of a psychological or psychoanalytical approach, informed by techniques such as cognitive behavioural therapy.

Relationships Australia provides a range of services including relationship counselling. At the end of the day what matters most is that you and your couples counsellor "click"; if you don't gel with yours, it's OK to find a new one.

Love is about doing

It can be helpful to use American author bell hooks' idea of love as a practice of "doing" rather than a passive "being". In other words, love is about doing things (for each other, together, or for yourself to fuel your relationship) rather than just about "being in love".

Couples in long-term, contented relationships engage in day-to-day love practices, such as making a coffee for your partner, or watching a show together.

So, consider snuggling up on the couch with your partner to watch something together. Perhaps even Couples Therapy can provide a healthy prompt to reflect on and appreciate one another in a new light.

(By Priscilla Dunk-West, Victoria University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Peripheral retina may help detect early signs of Alzheimer's disease before brain damage: Study

The outer area of the retina, or the peripheral retina, could offer a window into an early detection of Alzheimer's disease long before irreversible brain damage occurs, and a routine eye exam may thus potentially help with an early diagnosis of the neurodegenerative condition, according to a new study.

"The eyes are indeed a window into the brain, but our study reveals that we have been looking at the wrong part of the window. While most clinical eye exams focus on the central retina, the most critical early indicators of Alzheimer's disease (AD) appear to be hidden at the periphery of the eye," author Stephen Wong, from Houston Methodist Hospital in the US, said.

"By identifying these retinal changes that occur before the brain's 'plumbing' system fails, doctors may eventually be able to use routine eye exams to catch and treat the disease years before memory loss begins," he said.

Previous research has found that an accumulation of amyloid protein -- a waxy complex protein resembling starch resulting from degeneration of a tissue -- in the retina correlates with amyloid protein deposition in the brain (a hallmark of AD), suggesting that the retina may reflect central disease processes, the researchers said.

The study, published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, was conducted in mouse models and revealed how 'Muller glia', or retinal support cells, respond to the earliest stages of the disease and undergo significant cellular and structural changes before other symptoms of the neurodegenerative condition appear.

The researchers found that 'Aquaporin-4', a protein in the central nervous system that helps flush out metabolic waste, including Alzheimer 's-linked proteins, increases in the earliest stages of the disease.

This shows up as stress in the peripheral retina, evidenced by the increased size and number of glial cells, they said.

Wong said the study result is visual evidence that the body is working harder to maintain balance before the system eventually fails in later stages of the disease.

He said the study could change how AD is diagnosed and monitored and could provide a new target for early-intervention drug development.

–PTI

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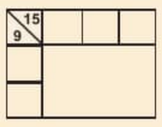
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

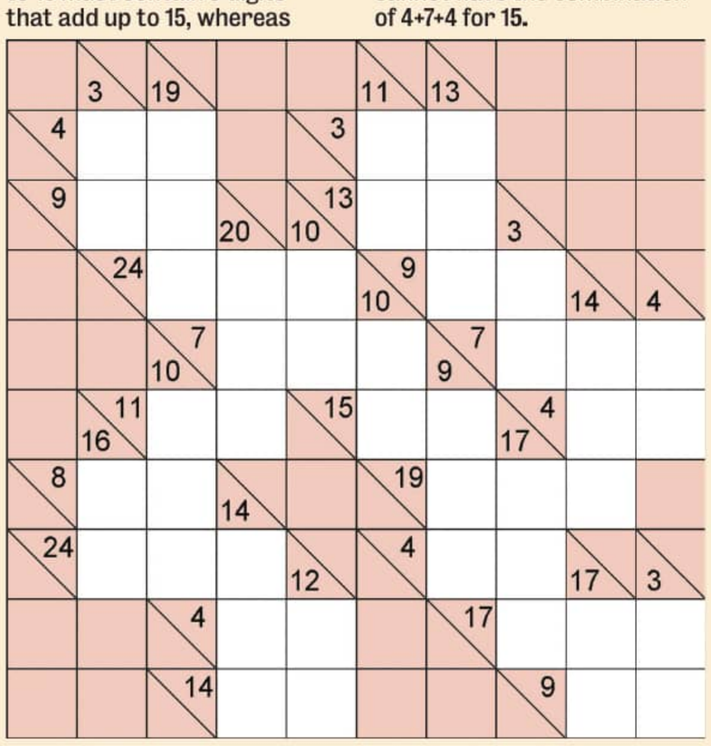
[((√16 + 4 + 9 + 7) / √9) x 4!+ 0!] = ?

Kakuro

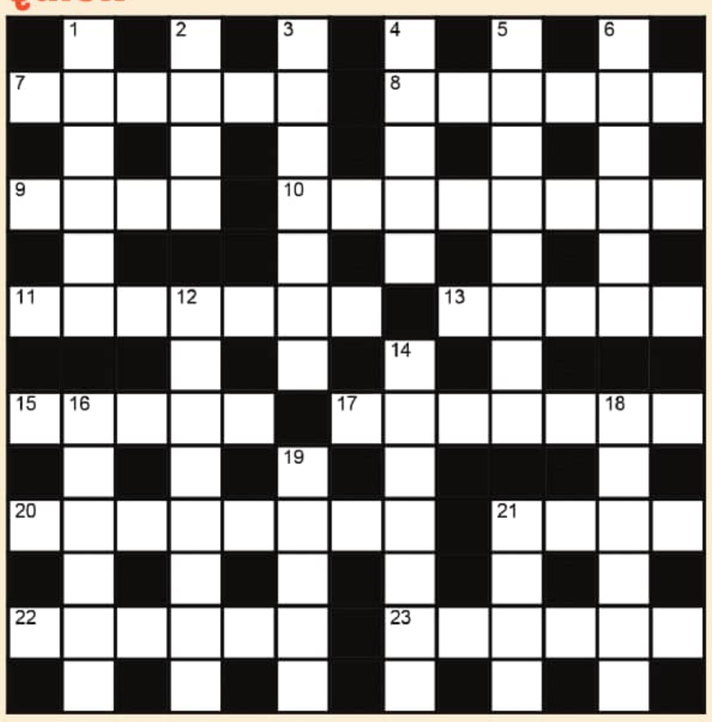
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Decontaminate (6)
8 Angora wool (6)
9 Wading bird (4)
10 All across town (4-4)
11 Unforeseen obstacles (7)
13 Time periods (5)
15 David's weapon (5)
17 Type of radio show (5-2)
20 Government building that offers a view of Ulsoor Lake on one side and the Bangalore Race Course on the other (4,4)
21 Beloved (4)
22 Make insane? (6)
23 Deep gorge (6)

DOWN

1 Capital of Maharashtra (6)
2 Some bar orders? (4)
3 Executed without a trial (7)
4 Leaves out (5)
5 Final confrontation (8)
6 More feral (6)
12 Gives solace (8)
14 Communion cup (7)
16 Sprang (6)
18 Lined up (2,1,3)
19 Lures (5)
21 By ___ of : by force or means of? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS W

CSWP SL CSGP V BPR LYPPK ZSJTJCP. EFLB FW QL MVNP IPVUL DP RPNPU QLP.

Linemaro

Meeting you is like a switch to polar coordinates: complex and imaginary things are given a magnitude and a direction

Mindchow

He that will learn to pray, let him go to sea

Joke of the day

When I was a boy, my mother wore a mood ring; when she was in a good mood it turned blue... in a bad mood, it left a big red mark on my forehead

Loop

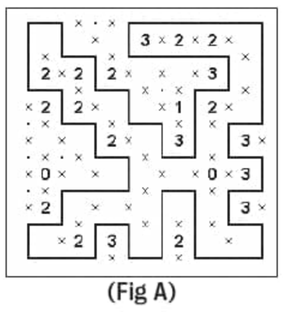
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

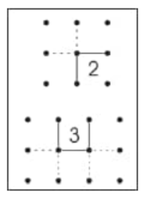
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

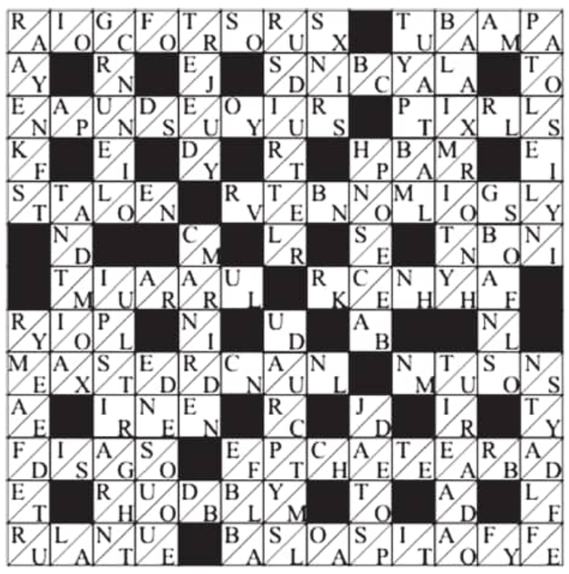


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9 C				

ACROSS

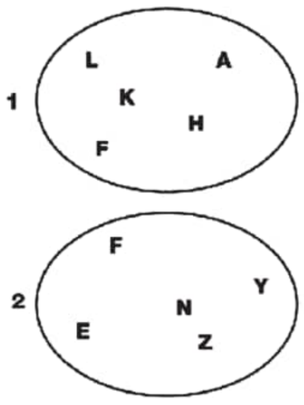
1 A be us; 6 An sen;
7 Add as; 8 Paint;
9 Me cos

DOWN

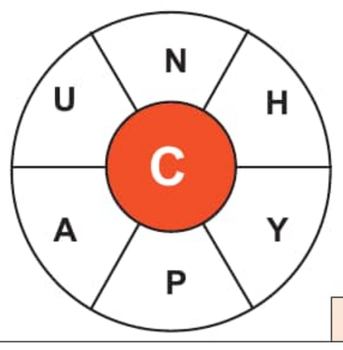
1 Cadis; 2 A bone;
3 Am dun; 4 Napes;
5 Asset

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is the odd one out in each shape?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2		9		8		
	1		7	3	6		5	
4			2		1			7
1		9				3		6
3		7				4		5
8			3		4			2
	6		5	7	8		9	
		1		2		5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 6

2 6 7 9

Medium

= 21

3 6 6 9

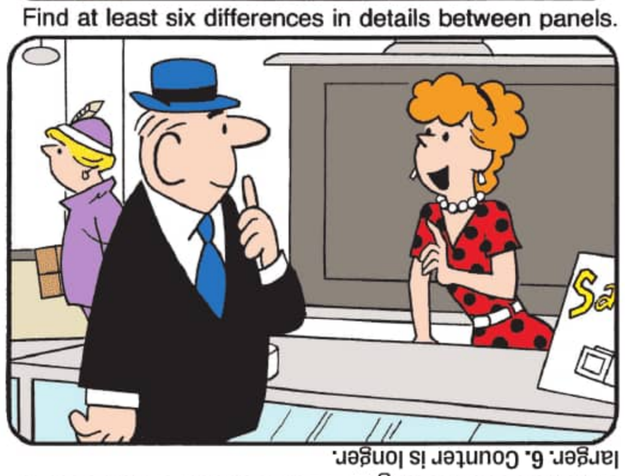
Hard

= 8

4 6 9 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



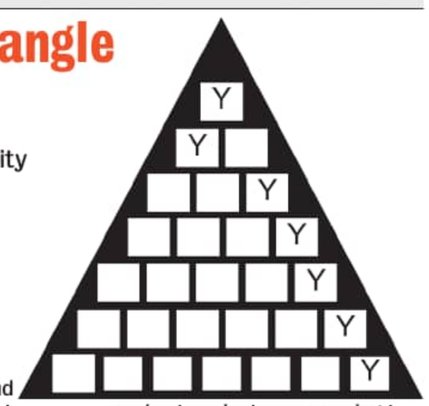
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Feather is added to hat. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Belt is added. 5. Man's ear is larger. 6. Counter is longer.

Riddler

Using the same logic as in the four examples given, answer the fifth equation.
5 + 5 = 10 4 + 9 = 1 11 + 5 = 4 8 + 10 = 6 7 + 5 = ?

Alpha triangle

1 Youth leader!
2 Yes, slang
3 Scottish river
4 Cafeteria necessity
5 BJP or INC
6 Equivalence
7 Artisitic garden

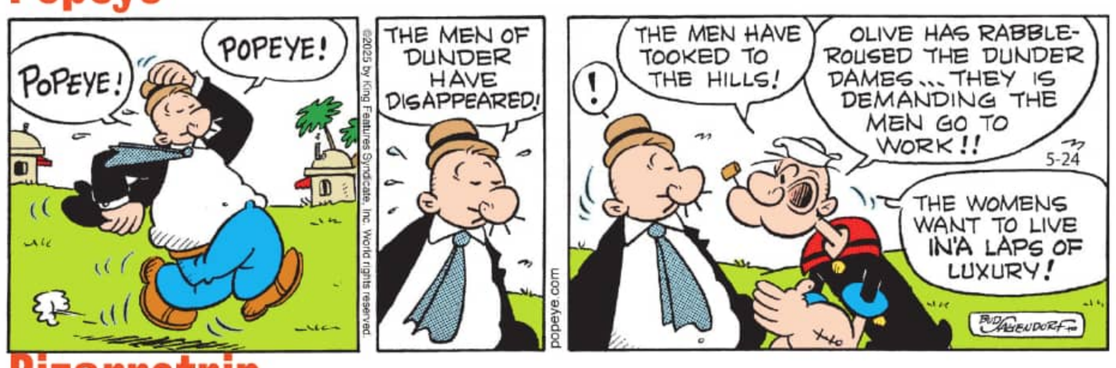


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


POPEYE!
POPEYE!
THE MEN OF DUNDER HAVE DISAPPEARED!
THE MEN HAVE TOOKED TO THE HILLS!
OLIVE HAS RABBLE-ROUSED THE DUNDER DAMES... THEY IS DEMANDING THE MEN GO TO WORK!!
5-24
THE WOMENS WANT TO LIVE IN'A LAPS OF LUXURY!
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popeye.com

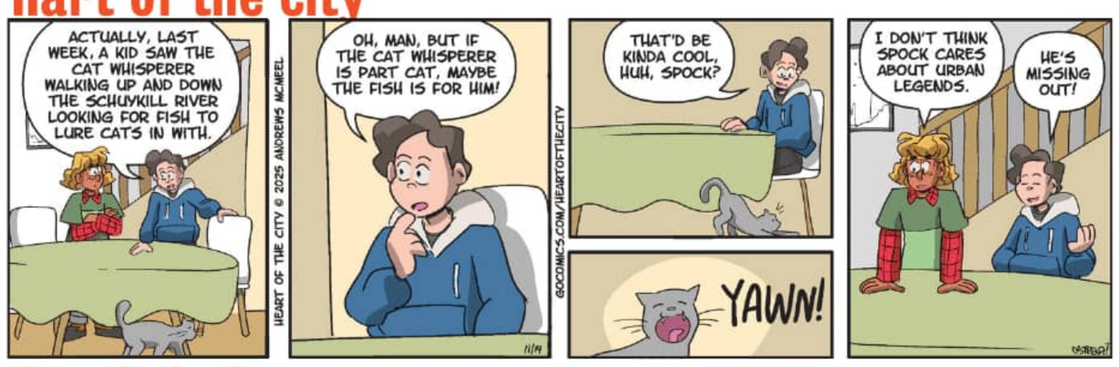
Bizarrotrip

BIZARRO.COM
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & 3 Pirates
11-13-25
What are the chances that incorrect drink orders would lead to meeting someone who's also a sergeant and assigned to the same base as me?
NONCOM ROMCOM
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

I THINK WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT NOBODY REALLY LIKED AL
BUT BEFORE I CONTINUE, I SHOULD ANNOUNCE HIS PALLBEARERS TODAY...
FIVE SHOPPING CARTS, AND A GUY WHO'LL DO ANYTHING FOR CANDY CORN
©2014 creators.com 11/13
www.creators.com
Bernstein

Hart of the city


ACTUALLY, LAST WEEK, A KID SAW THE CAT WHISPERER WALKING UP AND DOWN THE SCHUYKILL RIVER LOOKING FOR FISH TO LURE CATS IN WITH.
OH, MAN, BUT IF THE CAT WHISPERER IS PART CAT, MAYBE THE FISH IS FOR HIM!
THAT'D BE KINDA COOL, HUH, SPOCK?
YAWN!
I DON'T THINK SPOCK CARES ABOUT URBAN LEGENDS.
HE'S MISSING OUT!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOUR CHOIR HAD A DRESS REHEARSAL TONIGHT... I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU'D ACTUALLY...
CLEAR YOUR MIND! WE'VE GOT A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE LINE TONIGHT!
Andy
11-13
BATIUK & DAVIS
©2025 Kingspress, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Mutts

WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG!
WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG!
WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG WAG
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
MUTTS © PATRICK MCDONNELL

11-13

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Adventure and professional daring define your upcoming year. Career leaps are possible if you remain adaptable to change. Love is found in unexpected places, perhaps during a business trip. Your domestic life is vibrant and ever-changing. Travel to distant lands satisfies your curious spirit. Keep your finances organized to take advantage of a mid-year investment opportunity.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

High energy allows you to breeze through your tasks today. Use this momentum to start a new project. Your enthusiasm ensures success and brings a sense of great personal satisfaction.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Stability at home provides a peaceful sanctuary today. Cherish the time spent with your loved ones. These connections offer the emotional support you need to excel in your professional life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Networking leads to an exciting new opportunity today. Be open to meeting people and sharing your goals. A chance encounter could lead to a very rewarding and successful career path.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Self-reflection provides the answers you've been seeking today. Take time to understand your heart's desires. This clarity helps you move forward with confidence and a very happy, light spirit today.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Recognition for your hard work brings you joy today. Celebrate your achievements with those you love. Your dedication is finally paying off, paving the way for even greater future success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Tidying your environment brings mental clarity today. A focused mind helps you tackle complex tasks with ease. Your attention to detail ensures that your work is always of excellent quality.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Open communication restores harmony in your relationships today. Speaking your truth with kindness builds trust. Your diplomatic skills help you create a supportive and peaceful environment for everyone you love.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Financial intuition guides you toward profitable choices today. Trust your instincts when managing your resources. Your wise decisions ensure long-term stability and growth for your personal and professional future.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Learning a new skill brings you great satisfaction today. Expand your horizons and embrace growth. This knowledge will benefit your career and provide you with a sense of personal accomplishment.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

A supportive home environment helps you focus on your goals today. Knowing you have a strong foundation gives you confidence. Your hard work leads to significant and very rewarding results.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

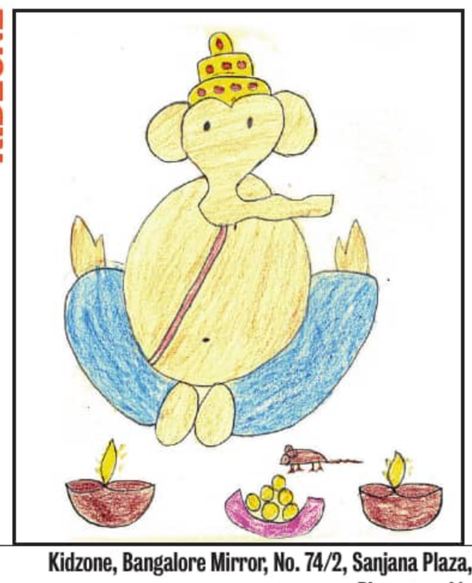
Meeting like-minded individuals provides inspiration today. Share your visions with your social circle. These connections offer the support and motivation you need to achieve your most ambitious and exciting today.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

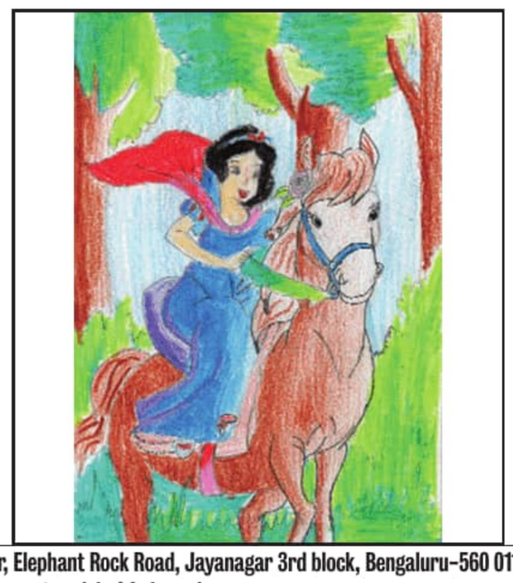
Creative projects flourish under your intuitive guidance today. Trust your artistic vision and let it flow. Your unique contributions are truly beautiful and will be appreciated by the whole world.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Kanishka M, Bengalru



Aaliya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

[(√(20 + 9 + 7) / 3) x 24 + 1] =
[(√29 + 7 / 3) x 24 + 1] =
[√36 / 3 x 24 + 1] =
[6 / 3 x 24 + 1] =
[2 x 24 + 1] =
[48 + 1] = 49

BULL'S EYE

paunch, PAUNCHY, punch, punchy

QUOTE UNCODE

Life is like a ten speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.

FAST FIVE

A	B	U	S	E
S	E	N	N	A
D	A	D	A	S
I	N	A	P	T
C	O	M	E	S

STRIKE OUT

R	I	G	O	R	O	U	S		T	A	M	P		
A		R		E		S	I	B	Y	L		O		
N	A	U	S	E	O	U	S		P	I	L	L		
K		E		D		R		H	A	M		E		
S	A	L	E		V	E	N	O	L	O	G	Y		
	D		C		R		S		N	O	N			
M	U	R	A	L		K	E	N	Y	A				
R	I	P		I		D		A		L				
E	X	T	E	R	N	A	L		M	U	S	S		
D	I	G	S		E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A		
A		I	N	N		C		J		R		T		
E		H	U	B	B	Y		T		D		F		
R	A	T	E		B	L	A	S	T	O	F	F		

QUICK

										D				
						E		S		T		W		
				C		N		A	N	Y	O	N		
				I		I		L				R		
M	A	Y	O	H	A	L	L		D	E	A	R		
		E		S		B		A				N		
S	L	I	N	G		P	H	O	N	E		I	N	
		O		D		C		W						
H	I	T	C	H	E	S		H	O	U	R	S		
		A		H		S		D		E				
I	B	I	S		C	I	T	Y	W	I	D	E		
M		N		N		I		O		L				
P	U	R	I	F	Y		M	O	H	A	I	R		
M		G		L		O		S		W				

MENSA PUZZLE

1 = L, 2 = E. All other letters are written with three lines.

RIDDLER

The sums are all based on times on a standard clock: 5am + 5 hours = 10am, 4am + 9 hours = 1pm, 11am + 5 hours = 4pm, 8am + 10 hours = 6pm.
Hence, 7 + 5 = 12 midday.

SUDOKU

6	7	2	4	9	5	8	3	1
9	1	8	7	3	6	2	5	4
4	5	3	2	8	1	9	6	7
1	4	9	8	5	7	3	2	6
5	2	6	1	4	3	7	8	9
3	8	7	9	6	2	4	1	5
8	9	5	3	1	4	6	7	2
2	6	4	5	7	8	1	9	3
7	3	1	6	2	9	5	4	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE

Y, Ya, Tay, Tray, Party, Partly, Topiary.

LOOP

Easy
7 + 6 + 2 – 9 = 6
Medium
6 – 3 x 9 – 6 = 21
Hard
9 – 4 + 9 – 6 = 8

GO FIGURE

KAKURO

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Special honour
Rima Das' 'Not a Hero'has been honoured with the Crystal Bear Special Mention at the 2026 Berlin International Film Festival

Nick Jonas' 'green flag' move

Sometimes, it is the smallest gestures that convey the deepest emotions. And this time, singer-actor Nick Jonas once again proved why fans across the world call him a total "green flag."

While promoting his wife, actor Priyanka Chopra's upcoming Hollywood film 'The Bluff', Nick was spotted wearing PeeCee's mangalsutra as a bracelet. The subtle nod to their marriage caught the attention of fans on social media, with many praising the singer-actor for displaying his unwavering love and respect for his wife's traditions even years after their 2018 wedding.

The actor-singer took to Instagram on Thursday, where he appeared in full supportive-husband mode. In the clip, Nick Jonas can be seen whipping up a cocktail inspired by Priyanka's character from the film. "Guys, it is the premiere of Priyanka's film 'The Bluff' on Amazon Prime. It is incredible, I've seen it twice," Jonas can be heard saying in the clip. **—ANI**

Navel or cleavage?

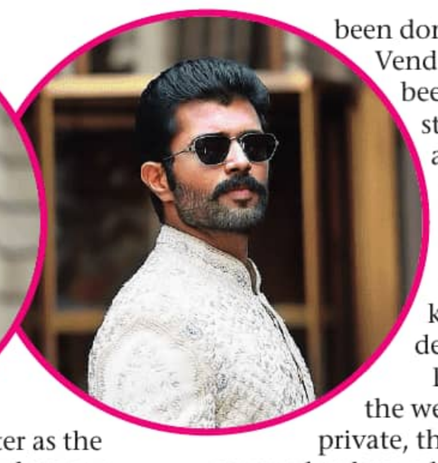
Each industry has its own tupe of gaze on female body: Taapsee

Having built a career across Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam industries, Taapsee Pannu says her experiences on different film sets shaped both her craft and perspective. Speaking in a recent interview about her upbringing in Delhi and her latest project 'Assi', she also opened up about an uncomfortable subject rarely discussed publicly: how female bodies are treated during song shoots.When questioned about the strong emphasis on the midriff in Bhojpuri and South film songs, Taapsee admitted she still finds it puzzling. Talking to SCREEN, she shared, "I'm also trying to understand. It's not that item songs in Hindi cinema don't focus on it, but it's not as much as in South Cinema. Hindi cinema is more about cleavage." Her response highlighted how visual grammar differs across regional industries.

The actor then revealed an awkward behind-the-scenes practice she witnessed while working down South. "In the South, they are often asked to wear a padded bra. And the problem is, who does the director even tell on set?"

She said, describing how instructions pass through multiple crew members before reaching the actress. Pannu painted a vivid picture of the discomfort involved: "Imagine how embarrassing it would be. You're shooting a song, someone gets up in the middle, walks off, everyone knows exactly what's happening. All the men are sitting there, watching what looks different when you come back." **–ETimes**

WEDDING PREP GOES ON



Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda are set to tie the knot on February 26 and the buzz surrounding it has made it Tollywood's one of the biggest event. The couple who have planned to keep the event extremely private seemed to be leaving no stones unturned. Latest reports suggest that they have hired an international security agency to maintain privacy.

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda want their special day to be private and kept behind closed doors, celebrating it with close family and friends. As per a report by India Today, to secure the perimeter as the wedding is taking place at a large venue in Udaipur, the couple has hired a specialised agency from abroad. The team will work together with the local Rajasthan security and will ensure that the event remains extremely private.

The planning for the February 26 wedding has been very careful. Everything has been done quietly. Vendors have been told to stay silent. All arrangements are handled without noise. Only a few people know the full details.

Even though the wedding is private, the couple is reported to host a big reception on March 4 in Hyderabad.

Friends and people from the film industry will attend this event.

It is also reported that the couple has kept a no-media rule on the wedding and reception. It is said that Vijay and Rashmika may greet the media after a few days. **—ETimes**

Timothee shares how co-star once doubted his acting ability

Actor Timothee Chalamet recently spoke about a "punk" moment from his early acting days, when a fellow actor questioned his talent and training on a film set.

According to E! News, the Oscar-nominated actor opened up about the awkward experience during a recent conversation with Variety, and shared how the comment stayed with him but did not shake his confidence.

"No names, but the guy was a punk," Timothee told Matthew McConaughey in a conversation published by Variety. "He asked me what conservatory I had gone to, and I said I didn't go to an acting conservatory. And he said, 'Well, you haven't trained as an actor then.' And we were all part of an ensemble."

Timothee also added how such comments no longer affect him. Timothee explained that he has

learned to stay away from people who enjoy giving "advice" more than listening.

"I always said, 'Beware of the people in life that get more of the advice they give you than you get at the advice,'" he explained. "They're thrilled by the act of giving you advice. All of a sudden, you can't listen to what they're saying anymore because they're flexing on you so hard."

The actor also made it clear that Matthew McConaughey, with whom he worked in Interstellar, never treated him this way. "You never did that to me, though," he told McConaughey, "which I'm grateful for." **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Clean-shaven look

The makers of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups have unveiled a new poster that shows Rocking Star Yash in a new avatar. The clean-shaven look poster introduces Ticket — also played by Yash in the film — marking his second look from the movie.

His bearded look as Raya was revealed earlier, and it was all the rage.

The response to the teaser has been electric, with it trending on YouTube in nine countries, along with India. In just under two minutes, Toxic has given audiences endless material to decode, discuss, and deep-dive into — turning a teaser drop into a full-fledged cinematic conversation.

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-ups has been shot simultaneously in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions releasing across Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and more. Produced by Venkat K Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is set to hit theaters on March 19.

Majestic-2 next month

Majestic made in 2002 made Darshan a household name. Now, Majestic-2 - is set to arrive in theaters next month. The film claims to be a mirror of activities in the Majestic area. The movie's trailer was unveiled by producer Anandappa's wife Nirmalamma at MMB Legacy on Wednesday.

The movie is backed by H Anandappa from Chitradurga under the Amma Enterprises banner while veteran producer Shilpa Srinivas' son Bharath Kumar plays the lead. The movie also features Samhita Vinya, Shruthi, and Malashree. Expressing gratitude to Anandappa, Bharath Kumar said, they faced a lot of problems during the filming of the movie. "Many people tried to create hurdles to the shooting. I will never forget the producer's advice on the importance of hard work. I appreciate Samhita Vinya for her hard work. I consider sharing the screen with veteran actresses Shruthi and Malashree as a boon for me. I visited the Majestic area at night for 10 days to learn about the activities and nightlife at Majestic area," said Bharath Kumar.

Producer Anandappa said he had reached his long-pending goal of becoming a producer.